(c) The value of imports of such food items for the various period is indicated below:-

(Value Rs. crores)

1960-61	*1970-71*	*1980-81*	*1986-87*
33	29	280	592

Separate break-up of pulses, milk products, etc. is not available.

(d) and (e). Such considerations are always kept in view while deciding our exports and imports of food items. Exports are allowed only to the extent of surpluses available.

[*Translation*]

Export of Readymade Cotton Garments

760. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether readymade garments are being exported every year besides yarn and cotton garments;

(b) if so, whether there is a great demand of readymade cotton garments abroad and there is a good potentiality of boosting the export of these items; and

(c) if so, the reasons for exporting yarn and cotton instead of cotton cloth and the readymade garments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is considerable demand for cotton readymade garments abroad. there is also a good potential for boosting export of this item.

(c) Government's endeavour is to promote export of value added products. At the same time the market abroad for cotton yarn and cotton is also good and a limited quantity of these items is permitted for export keeping in view the domestic availability and the need to maintain India's presence in the international market as a stable supplier.

[*English*]

Central Assistance to Handloom Weavers of Tamil Nadu

761. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu who sought financial and other assistance from the Union Government during 1990-91 to overcome their difficulties;

(b) the details of the financial and other assistance rendered to such handloom weavers;

(c) whether any assessment has been made by the Government to improve the overall economic conditions of the handloom weavers and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps been taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Central government is implementing a number of schemes for the development of handloom sector throughout the country, including Tamilnadu. Financial assistance under these schemes which are of a continuing nature is provided to all States on the basis of proposals received from concerned State Governments every year. Proposals from individual handloom weavers are not entertained.

(b) The scheme wise details of financial assistance released to Government of Tamil Nadu during 1990-91 are as under:-

Name of Scheme			*Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)]*
Plan			
1)	Modernisation of handlooms	:	44.00
2)	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme	:	20.00
3)	Thrift Fund Scheme	:	63.22
Non-Plan			
4)	Market Development Assistance Scheme	:	2979.10
5)	Janata Cloth Scheme	:	518.32
	Total	:	3624.64

(c) and (d). The recent increase in yarn prices has adversely affected the marketability of handloom products thereby reducing the earning of weavers. Government is constantly reviewing the price situation. The State sector and Co-operative sector spinning mills have been directed to augment production of crucial counts of yarn and exercise restraint in prices. The spinning mills in the private sector have also been pursuaded to supply yarn to handloom weavers at moderately reduced prices.

Private Buses on DTC Routes Running without STA Permits

762. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:
SHRI MUMTAJ ANSARI:
SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 600 private buses in Delhi are plying without permits as a result of Which D.T.C. running in losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the